

WINTERIZATION TWiG MEETING MINUTES

Date: 28 May-2022
Venue: Microsoft Teams meeting
Participants: Medair, IOM, UNHCR, PIN, NRC, Ukrainian Red Cross

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Key approaches that were successful/unsuccessful in the past
3. Current contextual differences compared to past experiences
4. General considerations for the estimation of the target (rural/urban, displaced/non-displaced)
5. Complementarity between winterization activities and other shelter and NFI activities
6. AOB

1. Introductions

- SCC opened the meeting and requested meeting participants to introduce themselves. Most of the partners were part of the winterization technical group the previous years.

2. Key approaches that were successful/unsuccessful in the past

- SCC mentioned the pertinence to consider the “Winterization recommendations 2019-20”, the most recent document produced by the TWiG. Given the moment of the emergency and the level of uncertainty, the “Northern Donbas Sub-National Cluster Winterisation Recommendations 2015” (first recommendations from this TWiG) are also quite relevant for the discussion.
- PIN noted that in their previous winterization response, they targeted vulnerable families in inaccessible areas. The price of coal fluctuated in-between phases of project implementation, and this is expected to be the case in the upcoming winterization response.
- IOM’s successful past projects included distribution of coal and cash in hard-to-reach areas, insulation of private houses as part of restoration. Insulation was presented as the most sustainable approach, although expensive.

3. Current contextual differences compared to past experiences

- UNHCR noted that there is a big change in needs in the newly accessible areas, where strong repairs are expected in the heating systems. Access and level of implementation by partners will depend on their capacity and presence in the field.
- The need for improvement of heating systems and insulation in many collective centres has been highlighted.
- The partners’ general recommendation for rural areas was to continue with activities implemented in the past:
 - Improvement of the insulation of the houses
 - Distribution of heating devices and solid fuel
 - Distribution of warm clothes and boots (cash or in-kind modalities)
 - Cash for the utilities
- The case of urban areas is completely different and must be studied further in the following sessions of the TWiG.
- One warm room (in addition to bathroom and kitchen) was discussed as a humanitarian approach to be able to target a higher number of households. IOM supported this approach and noted that it was used in the 2018 winterization response.
- MEDAIR and IOM raised concern on the environmental unfriendliness of the winterization activities and urged partners to find environmentally sustainable options. PIN proposed more use of electrical heaters since there was electricity in some of the rural areas while UNHCR proposed decreasing the heating area within houses to

save money and electricity. However, IOM noted that the electricity capacity in rural areas was limited and could be overwhelmed and suggested the use of biofuels.

- PIN noted that the difference with past winterization responses is that now the affected population and area is bigger and will cause more environmental damage as people look for firewood and building materials.
- IOM noted that the cluster can collaborate with the active TWiG on Heating led by UNOPS.
- IOM suggested to have an agenda item on winterization in TWiGs such as Collective Centers TWiG and Light and Medium Repairs TWiG. At the moment, IOM is planning to distribute NFI items such as blankets, pillows as well as light and medium repairs. Additional approaches will be based on needs and from assessments.

4. General considerations for the estimation of the target (rural/urban, displaced/non-displaced)

- UNHCR noted major points considered in the past were namely the eligibility to receive the government support, the socio-economic profile and distance from contact line and the target population was only the conflict affected, not the IDP. In the current situation, this winterization response will need to include both conflict affected and IDP and the contact line is not as define as it was previously.
- More information is required to start the estimation of the general target and the specific break downs: rural/urban, displaced/non-displaced. Access Working Group could be consulted and see if we can identify the new hard to reach areas to prioritise them with these activities.

5. Complementarity between winterization activities and other shelter and NFI activities

- There is a high complementarity between winterization activities and other shelter and NFI activities currently present in the SC activity matrix. UNHCR noted that most light and medium repairs are part of winterization activities. And IOM complemented that they included the insulation in their heavy repairs under the 'building back better' approach for sustainability. It was a success but costly.
- UNHCR noted that SC activities should complement government response efforts.

7. AOB

- SCC asked for volunteers to co-chair the Winterization TWiG. IOM and NRC volunteered.
- The TWiG will have meetings after every 2 weeks. The next Winterization TWiG will be on 9th June at 10am.

Action Points	Responsible	Timeline	Status
Contact Cash Working Group for updated market assessment of the winterization items	SC coordination team	Before 9 th June 9.00 am	Planned
Contact Access Working for updated access map	SC coordination team	Before 9 th June 9.00 am	Planned
Contact Environment GSC CoP for support to consider the most environmentally friendly solutions for winterization	SC coordination team	Before 9 th June 9.00 am	Planned
Contact with TWiG on HEATING led by UNOPS	IOM	Before 9 th June 9.00 am	Planned
Share with the TWiG the complementary winterization items from previous experience	IOM	Before 9 th June 9.00 am	Planned